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Date 5/8/05 (signed) 

IN THE US PATENT OFFICE

EXAMINER - Nguyen

GROUP - 2161

SN - 09/900569

FILED - 7/5/01

BY - Ogino

AMENDMENT

SIRS:

This is in response to the OA of 5/5/05. Please amend the above as follows:

Claims 1-75, previously cancelled as shown in the Appendix.

Claims 76 and 88, cancel without prejudice as shown in the Appendix.

Claims 77-87 and 89-92 amend as shown in the Appendix.

Add claims 93 and 94, as shown in the Appendix.

REMARKS

Claims 77-87, and 89-94 are in the application. Prior claims 76 and 88, being the main independent claims have been amended and rewritten as new claims 93 and 94, respectively, to more clearly define the invention and avoid the Sec. 103 rejections. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims now in the application are thus respectfully solicited.

The Examiner appears to have withdrawn the final rejection upon which the appeal was based, and in its place reopened prosecution based on a new set of references. The Examiner then requires an election between answering the office action (and reopen prosecution, we assume) and continue the appeal (but with the Examiner not having served any Examiner's Answer). It is a